



Innovation Villages Tackling MDGs

The global economic crisis that began to roll across the world in September 2008 is threatening gains made against poverty and hunger all over the South. As Kevin Watkins from UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report told the Financial Times, "With the slowdown in growth in 2009, we estimate that the average income of the 391 million Africans living on less than US \$1.25 a day will take a 20 percent hit."

How well millions of people survive the economic turmoil will depend on how local communities respond. And there are innovating communities across the South that show it is possible to succeed. By studying the microcosm of test villages, where quantifiable results are being tracked, lessons are being learned on how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>).

The challenge of matching improving living standards and quality of life with environmental sustainability has been taken up by one village in Colombia. The technologies it has developed over the past few decades have been adopted around the country.

In Las Gaviotas, Colombia a unique experiment was hatched at the end of the 1960s: to see if a village could survive - and even thrive - while eschewing fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. It found its first test in the oil crisis of the early 1970s. For Las Gaviotas' survival, meeting energy needs became paramount.

One of the simple concepts the community applied is a take on the physical reality that energy is never created or destroyed, it just moves from one medium to another. Las Gaviotas believes in using all the sources for energy that can be found in a local area first, before seeking out others.

Founded by development specialist Paolo Lugari, Las Gaviotas (<http://www.friendsofgaviotas.org>) is located in a desert region of Colombia. The area covers a vast territory comprising three-fifths of the country but is home to just 10 percent of the population. To Lugari, the harsh environment is a challenge to be overcome. To begin to reverse the arid environment at Las Gaviotas, the villagers reversed the dry climate by planting trees.

This had the effect of increasing local rainfall by 10 percent, making it possible to do other economic activities. "The only deserts that exist in this world are deserts of the imagination," Lugari told the New York Times.

The 200 people living in Las Gaviotas have been able to get by without guns, police, a mayor, cellphones, television or the Internet. Nobody uses a job title -- instead the adults in the community rotate jobs.

While the villagers do not use many of the technological tools people associate with modern life and prosperity, they do have a culture of invention. The inventions they have come up with include a solar kettle for sterilizing

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water and a 8,012 hectare pine forest which is harvested for resin to make biofuel for trucks and motorcycles. The resin is also used to make varnishes and linseed oil.

For years Colombia's ongoing civil war raged around the community. Violent drug traffickers and private armies destabilized the country for decades. But despite this mayhem, Las Gaviotas has attracted rural peasants seeking to double their wages (US \$500 a month) and enjoy the quiet life away from the war.

"We try to live a quiet life, depending on nothing but our own labor and ingenuity," said Teresa Valencia, a teacher who has lived in Las Gaviotas for three decades.

Other products developed by the village included a turbine powered by a small, one metre high dam that produced 10 kilowatts of electricity, a windmill that was able to spin despite light breezes, and a pump strong enough to draw water from the hard-to-reach savannah water table.

Pride of place was the village's hospital. Despite hot temperatures and high humidity, the hospital used clever technologies like subsurface tunnels and double ventilation systems in the walls to cool its operating theatre. The roof slid off to allow ultraviolet sunlight to disinfect rooms. After healthcare reforms in Colombia, the hospital was closed. Undefeated, the village turned the hospital's kitchen into a potable water bottling facility, and reduced the need for hospital visits by making sure everyone in the area had access to clean water.

The community's approach inspired scientists and architects, who came to design homes, laboratories and factories for Las Gaviotas.

One significant success has been the windmill-driven water pumps developed by Las Gaviotas. Invented by Jorge Zapp, head of the mechanical engineering department of Bogota's Universidad de Los Andes, it is a lightweight windmill unit weighing barely 45 kilograms. The blades use the airfoil found on airplane propellers to make the most of light breezes.

In the 1980s, UNDP hired the Gaviotas team to install water and windmill pumps in other places in Colombia. Thousands have now been installed in Colombia and the design has been copied throughout Latin America.

Other inventions include a solar-powered kitchen, a water pump powered by a children's see-saw, and a zeppelin that floats above the savannah plains to detect forest fires.

While the community has been able to forge a success, it can't avoid the ups and downs of the global economy entirely. Competition from cheap imports of pine resin have pushed down the price the community can charge. But in a topsy-turvy world, and surrounded by a civil war, what Las Gaviotas has achieved still seems impressive. "We have survived," said Andrea Beltran. "Maybe, at this time and place in Colombia, that is enough."

More recently, a much-publicized experiment is also underway in the Millennium villages. The Millennium Villages (<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/index.htm>) is a joint project between Columbia University's The Earth Institute and UNDP, and is a bold experiment working with villages in Africa to identify and test solutions to help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>).

Britain's Guardian newspaper has also been sponsoring and tracking changes in the villages of Katine sub-county in Uganda (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine>). Comprising 25,000 people, the project began in October 2007, and is conducted in partnership with the African Medical and Research Foundation (Amref) and Farm-Africa in Katine.

What is useful to people looking for solutions is the way the project is being tracked in detail on the newspaper's

website.

In India, the Model Village India (www.modelvillageindia.org.in) concept pioneered by Rangaswamy Elango, a head of the village of Kuthampakkam near Chennai, has now expanded to 30 model villages. Its approach is about being positive, eschewing griping about problems and instead getting down to work to solve them. Its success is based on an ancient Indian self-organizing model, the Panchayat, and Elango has modernized it to become what he calls The "Network Growth Economy Model" - a direct challenge to the "special economic zones that benefit only capitalist owners," he said.

Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World - 10th Anniversary Edition by Alan Weisman details further the achievements of the village (www.amazon.com)

Links

- Unleashing India's Innovation: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, a report by the World Bank.
Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/>
- NextBillion.net: Hosted by the World Resources Institute, it identifies sustainable business models that address the needs of the world's poorest citizens.
Website: <http://www.nextbillion.net/news>
- Model Village India: Drawing on self-organizing methods used in India since 1200 BC, the Model Village India is based around India's democratic system of Panchayats: a village assembly of people stemming back to pre-colonial times.
Website: www.modelvillageindia.org.in
- Maker Faire: The African Maker Faire has tapped into Africa's well-entrenched do-it-yourself development culture. It went looking for more inventors like those celebrated on the website AfriGadget (<http://www.afrigadget.com/>), with its projects that solve "everyday problems with African ingenuity." The Faire works with the participants to share their ideas and to find ways to make money from their ideas.
Website: <http://makerfaireafrica.com/>
- eMachineShop: This remarkable service allows budding inventors to download free design software, design their invention, and then have it made in any quantity they wish and shipped to them: Amazing! Website: <http://www.emachineshop.com/>
- The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognized quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design.
Website: www.red-dot.de

New Appetite for Nutritious Traditional Vegetables.

Throughout the history of farming, around 7,000 species of plants have been domesticated. Yet everyday diets only draw on 30 percent of these plants and even this number has been going down as more people consume mass-market foods (FAO).

One consequence has been poor nutrition resulting from the reduction in consumption of high-vitamin foods, leading to stunted mental and physical development across the global South.

Once-rich culinary traditions have wilted and left many people not knowing what to do with formerly common vegetables and fruits, even if they can actually find them in markets.

Between 94,000 and 144,000 plant species — a quarter to a half of the world's total — could die out in the coming years, according to an estimate by Scientific American (2002). Among them are vital food crops, threatened by a world in which climate change is causing more weather turbulence and diseases and viruses can spread rapidly and destroy crops.

This scale of plant loss risks leaving the world's food security dependent on fewer — and more vulnerable — domesticated species.

Despite being rich in vitamins, minerals and trace elements, African leafy vegetables have been overlooked in preference for cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, and other imported produce. But with rising food prices at local markets, people

are looking again at these neglected African vegetables. In East Africa, this includes indigenous plants like amaranth (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaranth>), African eggplant, Ethiopian mustard, cowpea, jute mallow and spider plant.

Like tomatoes and potatoes, some of these vegetables are members of the nightshade family -- but unlike those imports, they are indigenous to Africa. According to Patrick Maundu of Bioversity International (<http://www.bioversityinternational.org/>), African nightshades provide good levels of protein, iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc, and selenium at seven times the amounts derived from cabbage. The high levels of vitamins and micronutrients, he says, are especially important to people at risk of malnutrition and disease, particularly HIV/AIDS.

As the cost for basic foodstuffs have shot up during the global economic crisis, growing food has become an increasingly lucrative source of income. Estimates of the number of people doing this across Africa range from hundreds of thousands to millions.

In the bid to reduce the over-dependence on imported foods, urban farming is coming to the rescue and becoming an effective survival tactic in Africa's fast-growing cities. Thousands of urban workers in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, are supplementing their wages by investing in farms growing food. Eunice Wangari, a nurse in Kenya, supplements her US \$350/month salary with money earned from growing food. "For too long our country has been flooded with imported food and westernized foods," Wangari told The Guardian newspaper. "This is our time to fight back – and grow our own." In Kenya, this type of agriculture usually involves an urbanite taking a stake in farmland outside the city. Relatives then do the farming. Mobile phones play a key role in this approach. The urban dweller can keep in touch with the farm by phone and receive updates on progress. They use their knowledge of urban food tastes to then adjust the crops and increase profits.

An accountant, James Memusi in Nairobi, is growing mushrooms in a spare bedroom in his home and then selling them to hotels and supermarkets, according to The Guardian. Miringo Kinyanjui is selling unrefined maize and wheat. Loved for its nutritional qualities, the flour is also flavoured with amarathan, a common green vegetable in Kenya. It is a clever way to make the most of the fact that many urban dwellers have some access to land in the countryside.

Pride is also returning to the topic of food, as people re-discover traditional foods and vegetables and fruits.

In Liberia, president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has launched a "Back to the Soil" campaign to get urban dwellers to farm and help the country lose its dependence on foreign food imports.

Liberia is trying to reduce the importing of rice and tomatoes.

In Zambia, the embracing of traditional foods has been fuelled by recipes used by a chain of popular restaurants. This appetite has driven demand for dried pumpkins, 'black jack' leaves and fresh okra.

The success of this revival of traditional foods has attracted big multinationals as well. Unilever Kenya ran a campaign in 2008 called 'taste our culture,' promoting African herbs and spices.

Links

- The Global Trees Campaign, a partnership between Fauna & Flora International, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and many other organisations around the world, aims to save threatened tree species through provision of information, conservation action and support for sustainable use.
Website: www.globaltrees.org
- World Vegetable Center: The World Vegetable Center is the world's leading international non-profit research and development institute committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in developing countries through vegetable research and development.
Website: <http://www.avrdc.org/>
- Sylva Professional Catering and College: A well-known Zambian food entrepreneur who runs a range of businesses, including restaurants, a cooking school and a guest house.
Website: <http://sadc biz.com/countries/zambia/categories/index.htm>
- Marketing African Leafy Vegetables: Challenges and Opportunities in the Kenyan Context By Kennedy M. Shiundu and Ruth. K. Oniang.
Website: http://www.ajfand.net/Issue15/PDFs/8%20Shiundu-IPGR2_8.pdf

African Countries Re-branding for New Economic Role

Africa's diverse countries have been subject to years of negative stories in the media. The effect on global audiences has left many to cast the whole continent

in a bad light and to know little about the individual countries and cultures.

This has damaged business confidence over the years. Just like products and people, nations need to have a strong and positive brand to do well in the global economy. Nation branding, the process by which countries alter people's perceptions, has taken hold in Africa as the continent seeks to reverse the bad vibes.

South Africa is the continent's leader in nation-branding, and countries including Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana are newly pursuing it. South Africa's 'Proudly South African' (<http://www.proudlysa.co.za/>) campaign is known around the world.

The past decade has seen economic growth and rising tourism in many African countries. But the reality that many people around the world can't tell the difference between most African countries, or have mostly negative impressions formed from news reports, means they are unaware of the positive developments and opportunities.

Author and researcher Simon Anholt, in his book Brand New Justice, claims Africa's biggest obstacle to growth is the image of the continent itself. He argues that in a globalized world it is the responsibility of good governments to understand, measure, and exercise control over a country's reputation if it is to prosper. However, he has criticized nation-branding if it is just a marketing strategy without substantial changes to how things are done in a country.

And it is clear the winners in nation re-branding will be the countries that prove on the ground that they are changing and living up to the fine words and catchy phrases.

In Nigeria's Lagos State (www.lagosstate.gov.ng), Governor Babatunde Fashola - known as 'Nigeria's Obama' - has launched a campaign to turn around the country's long-standing reputation for corruption. Using the slogan Good People, Great Country, the city of Lagos has set itself ambitious goals that are dependent on significant increases in investment.

Lagos wants the city to be transformed into a place anyone can do business and be attractive to tourists.

The city has seen its population triple in the last 50 years and is on track to be the third largest city in the world by 2015. Thinking long term, plans are in place for the city to eventually be home to 40 million people.

Critics are blunt about their hostility to the re-branding exercise: "How do you re-brand a product when the content stinks?" asked Akinola M.A. on news website Mynaija News. "I can't understand the meaning of this project when basic facilities like good roads, water and electricity are virtually not available."

Supporters say the governor's strategy is based on action, not words. Investment is going into a Rapid Bus Transit (BRT) system, traffic management, security, street lighting, beautification, and public-private partnerships to improve services.

"Nigeria cannot wait until it solves all her problems before it can stand to give serious thought to re-branding its battered image," Nigeria's information minister Dora Akunyili told Online Nigeria. "This is because our development is tied to our image. This negative perception has had destructive effects on our people and stymied our growth and national progress."

Showing the power of trans-African approaches, the Wisdom Keys Group, a Nigerian company founded in South Africa (<http://www.wkg.co.za/network.html>) and working in 16 countries with partners, was contracted to do the campaign.

As the pioneer of brand power in Africa, South Africa's International Marketing Council (<http://www.imc.org.za/>) heads a relentless campaign to engage an international audience and expatriate South Africans. It is a sharp, multi-media outfit tackling every aspect of South Africa's domestic and international reputation. Products include e-newsletters, campaigns to lure back expert South Africans, a vast network of web content, and a highly targeted advertising and marketing campaign that lures businesses and tourists to the airport (via ads on taxis and in subways) and on to flights to South Africa.

For Kenya (<http://www.brandkenya.go.ke/>), the focus is on instilling pride within the country. As Kenyan media consultant Kwendo Opanga told the Nation Branding website, "it is not branding Kenya for foreigners that is difficult. It is branding Kenyans for Kenya and Kenya for Kenyans that is a tough call." "We even work with the school system to ensure that this is in the curriculum so that children are told that they need to start living dignified lives."

Rwanda, despite experiencing a horrific genocide in 1994, is gaining attention for turning its image around. It has taken a different approach and has targeted building powerful networks of support around the world to make deals. As Rwandan government adviser Elaine Ubalijoro told FastCompany, "How do you

take a country that's been through hell and bring it to security and prosperity? This is about healing, and this is about hope. We think it can be done."

The Rwandan strategy is hinged on exploiting a global network of high-profile and powerful contacts that includes former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Google chief Eric Schmidt. The results include a training programme where British civil servants work in Rwanda. Starbucks, meanwhile, has become one of the top purchasers of Rwandan coffee.

Ghana's newly launched Brand Ghana office was set up to coordinate the development of an engaging national image for the country. Its head, Mathias Akotia, told Nation Branding: "We are in competition with other nations for attention, wealth, tourism and for the export of products. Country branding is about the management of our national identity and values in a way that will take us forward."

Still in the early stages of re-branding, Ghana plans to hold a national summit to draft a plan and identify the country's values and identity.

Branding is not merely slogans and catch phrases. Word-of-mouth can radically change a country's image, and its prospects. The international magazine Monocle (www.monocle.com), a publication that prides itself on spotting the next big thing, has highlighted the East African nation of Burundi (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burundi>) as the place to watch. The magazine thinks that by reinventing itself as a place of tourism, coffee and oil, with some of Africa's best inland beaches and a wealth of art-deco architecture recalling Miami's South Beach area, Burundi can distance itself from past conflict and become a must-see destination. At present, 80 percent of its earnings come from coffee and tea exports. It is hoping to become a tourist and transport hub with a new port, linking central and east Africa.

As the magazine says, "Bujumbura has got all the substance - and architecture - required to turn Burundi's backwater capital into an African success story, and the country's upcoming elections are a chance to create lasting peace after 15 years of civil war. But corruption could still derail the dream."

The Nation Branding website (<http://www.nation-branding.info/>) ("everything about nation branding and country brands") is the place to visit for all those interested in nation branding, country brands and how countries can improve their image abroad. Upcoming nation branding events can be found here: <http://www.nationbrandingevents.com/nationbranding>.

Links

- Monocle Magazine: Launched in February 2007, Monocle is a global briefing covering international affairs, business, culture and design. Developed for an international audience hungry for information across a variety of sectors, the magazine is a consistent champion of Southern countries and their economic opportunities.
Website: <http://www.monocle.com/>
- A BBC radio documentary on Nigeria's experience of nation branding.
Website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/documentaries/2009/html>
- Brandchannel: The world's only online exchange about branding, packed with resources, debates and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand.
Website: www.brandchannel.com
- Small businesses looking to develop their brand can find plenty of free advice and resources here.
Website: www.brandingstrategyinsider.com
- Catwalk for Africa: A fashion show taking place from December 4-6, 2009 in Tunisia.
Website: http://www.catwalkforafrica.com/accueil/accueil_en.php

Tiny Homes to Meet Global Housing Crisis

More than 1 billion people around the world lack decent shelter. Of these, the majority live in urban areas, usually in slums and informal settlements (UN-HABITAT).

The world's megacities – like Mumbai, India, where more than 22 million live in the metropolitan region – have to find a way to provide housing that is both affordable and does the minimum possible amount of harm to the environment.

About one-third of the world's urban dwellers live in slums, and the United Nations estimates that the number of people living in such conditions will double by 2030 as a result of rapid urbanization in developing countries.

The fast pace of growth of India's cities presents an enormous challenge: how to house so many people with dignity and to a good standard. India's city slums are notorious and recently became the subject of the Oscar-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire* (<http://www.slumdogmillionairemovie.co.uk/>). With a population of 1.2 billion, India needs to find 25 million homes a year to meet current demand, according to McKinsey and Co.

Housing prices have risen by 16 percent a year for the past four years. While the middle class – estimated at over 300 million people – has piled into high-end apartments and houses, it has been the country's low-income people who have been frozen out of the option of quality homes.

The concept of targeting those at the 'bottom of the pyramid' (BOP) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fortune_at_the_Bottom_of_the_Pyramid) has drawn attention to the estimated 23 million poor urban dwellers in India, and 180 million rural families, who have savings and want to own a home. Monitor India (<http://www.monitor.com/in/>) believes these people have annual earnings between US \$1,400 and US \$3,000.

The Indian manufacturing powerhouse Tata – which this year launched a BOP-focused car, the Tata Nano – has designed and is building, Nano Homes – small apartments outside Mumbai for US \$8,600 (<http://tatahousing.in/pages/home.php>). It also hopes to expand to other major Indian cities as well.

The Nano homes are built on a modest scale: there are three sizes with the smallest measuring 67 square metres. They consist of a single room that doubles as a bedroom by night with a sink, bath and toilet behind a partition.

Criticisms include location – on the edges of major cities - where residents would have to commute long distances to get to their jobs.

Even so, Nano apartments are so popular buyers are being chosen by lottery. "India's housing crisis lies in the fact that the poor in the cities are priced out of the market," Sundar Burra, an adviser to the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centre, a Mumbai-based housing rights organization, told Canada's *Globe and Mail* newspaper. "State supply of housing for the poor is woefully inadequate in relation to the need. Slums proliferate as a solution to this state of affairs."

People can get a mortgage for the homes from Tata Home Finance. Tata is not the only company targeting this market. India's Matheran Realty (<http://www.tmcity.in/>) is building what it claim is India's largest affordable housing project, Tanaji Malusare City, in the villages of Shirse and Akurle of Karjat (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karjat>). The 15,000 homes would house 70,000 people and would sell for US \$4,698.

Another developer, Godrej Properties (<http://www.godrejproperties.com/>), is building a BOP housing development outside the city of Ahmedabad with apartments costing US \$11,749.

"(Property) developers have recognized that the real demand no longer lies in the premium segment and are opting to build smaller, no-frills apartments," said Deepak Parekh of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (<http://www.hdfcindia.com/>).

It estimates the affordable housing market will be worth US\$ 110 billion in India by 2013 and will account for 80 percent of India's housing market.

"Affordable housing is not about box-sized, budget homes in far-flung places where there is no connectivity to workplaces and little surrounding infrastructure," Parekh told HDFC's shareholders. "Affordable housing has to be able to cut across all income segments and has to make economic sense in terms of proximity to the workplace."

Links

- Building and Social Housing Foundation: BSHF is an independent organisation that works both in the UK and internationally to identify innovative housing solutions and to foster the exchange of information and good practice.
Website: <http://www.bshf.org/home.cfm>
- Tiny House Design Blog: The blog is full of ideas and plans for making small homes cheaply.
Website: <http://www.tinyhousedesign.com/>
- A blog detailing the Tata dwellings in diagrams and photographs.
Website: <http://www.tslr.net/2009/06/tatas-nano-homes.html>

Window on the World

UN Ideas that Changed the World

■ *by Sir Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Professor Thomas G. Weiss, Publisher: UN Intellectual History Project/Indiana University Press.*

[Website: https://unp.un.org/bookshop/details.aspx?sku=9780253221186](https://unp.un.org/bookshop/details.aspx?sku=9780253221186)

The New Age of Innovation: Driving Co created Value Through Global Networks

by CK Prahalad and MS Krishnan, Publisher: McGraw-Hill Professional.

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Bottom of the Pyramid Case Studies

A radio series by Mark Doyle exploring the question: what are Africans doing to themselves to perpetuate poverty? Is it corruption or lack of justice? Or something else?

[Website: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8215083.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8215083.stm)

A Renewable World: Energy, Ecology, Equality - A Report for the World Future Council

By Herbert Girardet and Miguel Mendonca, Publisher: Green Books.

[Website: www.greenbook.co.uk](http://www.greenbook.co.uk)

Human-Centered Design Toolkit: A Free Toolkit for NGOs and Social Enterprise

Publisher: IDE and the Gates Foundation.

[Website: http://www.ideo.com/work/item/ide-and-gates-foundation-human-centered-design-toolkit/](http://www.ideo.com/work/item/ide-and-gates-foundation-human-centered-design-toolkit/)

Next Generation Connectivity: A Review of Broadband Internet Transitions and Policy from around the World

Publisher: Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Compares government policies and benchmarks the results of the efforts by OECD countries to rollout high-speed broadband Internet networks. The full report can be downloaded at:

[Website: http://www.fcc.gov/stage/pdf/Berkman_Center_Broadband_Study_13Oct09.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/stage/pdf/Berkman_Center_Broadband_Study_13Oct09.pdf)

Fixing Failed States

by Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, Publisher: The Institute for State Effectiveness.

Addresses one of the central issues of our times: the proliferation of failed states across the world and our inability to stabilize them.

[Website: http://www.effectivestates.org/book.htm](http://www.effectivestates.org/book.htm)

Understanding the Post-Recession Consumer

by Paul Flatters and Michael Willmott, Publisher: Harvard Business Review.

[Website: http://hbr.harvardbusiness.org/2009/07/understanding-the-post-recession-consumer/ar/1](http://hbr.harvardbusiness.org/2009/07/understanding-the-post-recession-consumer/ar/1)

Cities of Change Addis Ababa: Transformation Strategies for Urban Territories in the 21st Century

by Marc Angelil and Dirk Hebel, Publisher: Birkhauser. Addis Ababa is a research initiative launched by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich in collaboration with Addis Ababa University (AAU) and the Ethiopian Engineering Capacity Building Program (ECBP). The laboratory sets as its objective the development of sustainable strategies for urban environments. Rather than upholding an a priori vision of an ideal city, the publication *Cities of Change: Addis Ababa* acknowledges the heterogeneous and at times messy conditions of urban territories, and makes a case for their transformation over time.

[Website: http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?sid=&pid=11010&HID=](http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?sid=&pid=11010&HID=)

Sustainable Development and the Future of Cities

by Bernd Hamm and Panderang K. Muttaqi, Publisher: Oxford and IBH Publishing. Looking at an increasingly urban world, it examines how urban areas are by far the most serious pollutants of our environment. The book examines social issues central to understanding how sustainability in cities can be achieved, looking at concepts, theories and problems of sustainable development. It also considers regional perspectives, with contributions from Southeast Asia, North America and Eastern Europe as well as presenting local answers to the problems of sustainable urban development, with examples from Iran, Poland, Canada, and Finland, among others.

[Website: http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?pid=3970](http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?pid=3970)

Lessons from Traditional Architecture: Achieving Climatic Buildings by Studying the Past

by Simos Yannas and Willi Weber, Publisher: Earthscan. The architectural community has had a strong and continuing interest in traditional and vernacular architecture. This has been rekindled by the need to develop an architecture that works with climate, rather than against it, to create more sustainable buildings.

[Website: http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?sid=&pid=10383&HID=](http://www.ribabookshops.com/site/viewtitle.asp?sid=&pid=10383&HID=)

The Venturesome Economy: How Innovation Sustains Prosperity in a More Connected World

by Amar Bhide, Publisher: Princeton University Press. Website:

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Keeping Illegal Fish and Timber off the Market: A Comparison of EU Regulations a briefing paper

by Heike Baumuller, Duncan Brack and Katharina Umpfenbach, Publisher: Chatham House.

[Website: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14974_bp1009_fishandtimber.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14974_bp1009_fishandtimber.pdf)

Africa's Private Sector: What's Wrong with the Business Environment and What to Do About It

by Vijaya Ramachandran, Alan Gelb and Manju Kedia Shah, Publisher: Center for Global Development. Why has private business yet to take off in much of sub-Saharan Africa?

Website: www.cgdev.org

Designing High-density Cities for Social and Environmental Sustainability

edited by Edward Ng, Publisher: Earthscan.

Website: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=21001>

ICT for Economic Growth: A Dynamic Ecosystem Driving the Global Recovery

Publisher: World Economic Forum. An analysis of how information and communication technologies (ICT) can serve as fundamental enablers for the global economic recovery. Demonstrating the importance of ICT as a catalyst for growth, the report highlights the industry's complex and interdependent relationships, new collaborative business opportunities and the need for stable policy frameworks to ensure sustained investment, innovation and fair competition. Website:

Website: http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/PR_ICT09

Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day

by Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford and Orlanda Ruthven, Publisher: Princeton University Press. Financial diaries from households in Bangladesh, India and South Africa.

Website: www.amazon.com

La ChinAfrique

by Michel Beuret, Serge Michel and Paolo Woods, Publisher: Grasset and Fasquelle. Portraits of China's involvement in recent years on the continent of Africa.

Website: <http://www.Amazon.fr>

Factory Girls: Voices from the Heart of Modern China

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

Website: www.amazon.com

When China Rules the World

by Martin Jacques, Publisher: Penguin. Website: www.amazon.com

The End of Certainty: Towards a New Internationalism by Stephen Chan, Publisher: Zed Books.

Website: www.zedbooks.co.uk/the_end_of_certainty

Small Change: Billions of dollars and a Nobel Prize later, it looks like 'microlending' doesn't actually do much to fight poverty

by Drake Bennett, Publisher: Boston Globe.

Website: <http://www.boston.com/>

Money and Mandarin lessons fuel China's African invasion: From Liberia to Ethiopia, Beijing is constructing a 21st century empire thousands of miles from home

by Daniel Howden.

Website: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/money-and-mandarin-lessons-fuel-chinas-african-invasion-1802827.html>

Upcoming Events

2009

November

Clean Energy Expo Asia 2009

Singapore (18-20 November 2009)

Clean Energy Expo Asia is a trading and knowledge-sharing platform bringing together the leading players in the Technology, Services, Finance and Government sector to address key issues in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region.

Website: www.cleanenergyexpoasia.com

4th Sustainability Summit: Asia 2009, Winning Strategies for a Sustainable World

New Delhi, India (25-26 November 2009)

The compelling mix of high energy prices, natural resources constrain, environmental degradation, the have and have-nots divide, terrorism and militancy, financial crisis, governance inefficiencies, failure of capitalism, is inducing the need for transformational change to arrest further damage. The Summit is focused on how visionary businesses and institutions are turning crisis into opportunity to change our world into one that is sustainable and all inclusive. The Summit has been designed to provide real-world experience taking participants through the experience of ideating to transformation through action. It provides a diversity of winning experiences in the two days, because it enriches the learning, creating a stronger participation experience.

Website: www.zoomerang.com

Fifth Annual Conference OECD-CEPII

Paris, France (26-27 November 2009)

OECD and the CEPPI, under the auspices of the OECD Development Centre, are organising a conference entitled 'Developing Countries and the Global Crisis'.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/9/43994968.pdf>

The Global Conference 2009

Eauville, France (26-28 November 2009)

The Global Conference brings together political figures, business leaders, scientists, opinion-makers and the media in a special environment in order to discuss on the vital stakes of sustainable development, challenge points of view and initiate common solutions. Four hundred participants will take part in this gathering and enrich the debates with their experience.

Website: www.planetworkshops.org/en

December

e-Asia 2009

Colombo, Sri Lanka (2-4 December 2009)

eAsia 2009 is the annual international Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development event with the objective of reinforcing technology and knowledge-centric growth and needs of Asia vis-à-vis Sri Lanka, through capitalisation of market economy and boosting human development.

Website: <http://www.e-asia.org/2009/index.asp>

Catwalk Africa

Hammamet, Tunisia (4-6 December 2009)

After the stunning success of the Miami edition, Catwalk for Africa 2009 is officially on. A bigger show, a spectacular venue, top-notch entertainment, live performances and world-class exhibits: all those ingredients will be combined together during a night of fashion, luxury and entertainment.

Email: arlie@catwalkforafrica.com

Website: <http://www.catwalkforafrica.com/>

University of Cambridge Business and Poverty Leadership Seminars 2009

Cambridge, UK (6-9 December 2009)

These seminars offer a unique opportunity for business leaders to understand the risks and opportunities of working in developing countries and emerging economies. They are designed to develop business skills in these markets and provide guidance and inspiration to develop the next generation of business that creates more equitable wealth.

Website: www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/poverty

COP 15 Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Denmark (7-18 December 2009)

The sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are open to Parties of the Convention and Observer States (Governments), the United Nations System and observer organizations duly admitted by the Conference of the Parties.

Website: <http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4749.php>

Global South-South Development Expo 2009 – Call for Nominations

Washington, DC, USA (14-17 December 2009)

The World Health Organization and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program are pleased to inform you that we are organizing the 2nd Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in conjunction with the 6th Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, to be held on 15-17 December 2009 in Washington DC. The Expo will exhibit initiatives that have made significant contributions to human development in the global South and that have provided solutions to address Climate Change, Food Security and Global Health that could be replicated, scaled up or adapted across developing countries. We would like to invite you to nominate an initiative that has provided an effective solution to a public health problem by succeeding on the basis of leadership, innovation and partnership.

Deadline for nominations: November 15, 2009

Website: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=1517&Itemid=1563_=en

2010

February

Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email event@clear-profit.com

[Website: http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html](http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html)

March

World Urban Forum 5

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22-26 March 2010)

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

[Website: http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584](http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584)

Globe 2010

Vancouver, BC, Canada (24-26 March 2010)

This series of events is dedicated to bringing together professionals from the environment sector. Every two years, corporate executives, government representatives, environmental senior managers, urban planners and financial executives meet to discuss emerging priorities and opportunities in the business of the environment. GLOBE 2010 will host 12,000 participants, 2,200 conference delegates, 500 exhibitors, 200 speakers and dozens of international delegations from over 70 countries. The Conference will focus on major themes such as Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy, Finance and Sustainability, Building Better Cities, and the Future of the Automotive Industry.

[Website: www.globe2010.com](http://www.globe2010.com)

April

IAIA10: Transitioning to the Green Economy

Geneva, Switzerland (6-10 April 2010)

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises. IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment.

[Website: http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx](http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx)

May

Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

[Website: www.challengebibendum.com](http://www.challengebibendum.com)

June

Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

[Website: www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com](http://www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com)

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

[Website: www.oceancouncil.org](http://www.oceancouncil.org)

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

Website: <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

Website: <http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946>

African Economic Outlook

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009
Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQT>

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VO3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers.

AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and

advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.
Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspovetry.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest collectively our world

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world - five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](http://www.gtz.de) | [Middle East and North Africa](http://www.gtz.de) | [Asia](http://www.gtz.de)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective

public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.
Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

Website: www.scidev.net

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the world's first global youth development competition.

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world’s inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University’s Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children’s Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
[\[cosmas.gitta@undp.org\]](mailto:cosmas.gitta@undp.org) Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation